



Compliment

THRAPSTON

RURAL DISTRICT.

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH,

1898.

OUNDLE AND THRAPSTON :

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To the Thrapston Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I am again glad to be able to lay before you a favourable report for the past year. In this report I propose, for the County Medical Officers of Health, first to speak of the whole district and then to treat the Huntingdonshire and Northamptonshire parts respectively.

The total number of deaths during the year for the entire district was 167, giving a death rate of 14·6. The number of births in the same period was 316 with a birth rate of 27·7.

There has been very little serious infectious disease during the year, only five deaths have occurred, one from Diphtheria, one from Typhoid Fever (an imported case), and three from Measles. The absence of Typhoid Fever is most noteworthy. I hope I am not too sanguine in expressing the opinion that this is in a great measure due to the improved sanitary state of the District, and that we may expect a continued absence or at least a lessening of this disease.

No less than thirteen deaths are due to Tuberculosis commonly known as consumption.

The opinion that this is really an infectious disease rather than hereditary has been steadily gaining ground of late years, and the best hope of diminishing the mortality lies first in improving the homes of the people, especially with regard to overcrowding, ventilation, and subsoil drainage ; and second, more care taken that meat and milk (the latter more especially) are free from disease.

Special directions to disinfect all sputa, etc., from patients are always given by Medical Attendants, and in addition I consider that any house in which a death has taken place should be visited by your Inspector, and the occupier induced to cleanse and disinfect as in any other infectious disease, Scarlatina for example, had taken place. It is true we have no legal power to enforce this, but much may be done by suitable representations.

In order to carry out this, at my request an order was made that all death returns should be furnished every month. I also drew your attention to Milk Shops and Dairies Order, and directions were given for registration and inspection of premises used by purveyors of milk.

At your request I procured information respecting a suitable Disinfecting Apparatus but the project did not meet with adequate support. The question of providing an Isolation Hospital has become more important as there is practically no vaccination. It seems likely to become a County matter.

HUNTS.

To take the District in detail.

The villages situated in Huntingdonshire are, Brington, Bythorn, Covington, Keystone, Molesworth and Old Weston. They contain a population of 939, area 9,305 acres. The number of deaths during the year was 18, giving a death rate of 19·2. Although the death rate seems high it does not really call for much comment in a small population, a coincidence as for example, several very old people dying in the year, will run up the death rate. The number of births in the same period was 18.

Infectious Illness.—No case of Infectious Disease occurred to my knowledge.

Water.—Complaints were made during the year of want of water. There is great difficulty in obtaining a proper supply in most of the villages situated on the high land between the valleys of the Nene and the Ouse. From the character of the soil it is almost impossible to find good springs. I think the difficulty can only be met by improved methods of storing.

I have to report considerable improvements in the drainage and general condition of these villages.

Old Weston.—In Old Weston about 300 yards of new sewer was efficiently laid to carry away sewage matter that used to be along the road side. Private houses have been repaired and connected with the drains, sinks have been cut off. The pail system of closets has been largely adopted, as there is plenty of garden room this should answer well in the village. The Public Wells have been protected against surface contamination. Altogether this village has been greatly improved during the year.

Covington.—Children from a London Orphanage were again housed at Covington during the Summer, care was taken that there should be no overcrowding, and that no Infectious Illness should be introduced. A New Public Well has been sunk and a pump erected. I hope this will prove a success, as the water supply is said by the Inspector to be very bad.

Minor improvements have also been effected in the other villages during the year.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE.

The population of the District situated in Northamptonshire is given as 10,457. The number of deaths was 137 with the addition of 12 in the Workhouse, giving a death rate of 14·2.

Infectious Disease.—There has been a considerable amount of mild Scarlatina during the last six months scattered through many

villages, but there has not been a fatal case. Some difficulty was experienced in getting the cases notified to me. Prosecutions were ordered in every case which could be well established, and fines were inflicted by the Magistrates. Measles has also been prevalent in Woodford and Addington, and two deaths have been recorded.

Water Supply.—The question of providing a Public Water Supply for Thrapston and several other villages in the District is one which has received great attention, and occupied a large amount of your time. The question is still undecided, but there seems every prospect of its being settled before long.

Thrapston.—The work in the town of Thrapston and the various villages has been as follows :—

The health of Thrapston has been very good, a few mild cases of Scarlatina were seen, but the disease did not spread to any extent, otherwise there has been no Infectious disease.

Disposal of Sewage.—The question of Sewage disposal is still undecided. The Parish are giving the matter most careful consideration; at their request I procured information respecting the various methods of purifying Sewage and attended one of their meetings. I should say that coke breeze filter beds would be found to answer the purpose.

Scavenging.—During the year I drew your attention to the need of Public Scavenging. I regret to say that my suggestions were not carried out. I hope the matter will come up again before long. I certainly think that in a growing town like Thrapston, to remove all refuse is as much a public duty as lighting or paving, and should not be left to private individuals.

Little Addington.—Little Addington was visited by an epidemic of Measles in November, and the Schools were closed for a period of three weeks. One case of Typhoid was notified at the commencement of the year, which I am glad to say proved the last of the 1897 epidemic already recorded.

The Parish Well which was under suspicion was properly secured from surface pollution. New drainage has also been laid down.

Great Addington.—Mild cases of Scarlatina and Diphtheria were seen at Great Addington, but the disease did not spread.

The improved drainage arrangements were completed, the Sewage going on to the land instead of into the brook.

Chelverton.—Cases of Diphtheria were reported at Chelverton and promptly dealt with. An entire new system of drainage was laid down in this Village during the year.

Ringstead.—In Ringstead cases of Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever were again seen. I strongly suspect that there were many cases of the latter disease which never were notified.

I drew your attention to the condition of the Brook, which becomes very foul in dry weather.

I think the drainage of the whole Village is a matter which should receive attention at an early date.

Woodford.—Woodford Schools had to be closed in November, owing to an extensive epidemic of Measles. Some cases of Scarlet Fever were also seen.

An important improvement has been made in the Water Supply of Woodford. The water coming from the high ground above the place has been intercepted and brought into the centre of the Village. Further improvements are under consideration. There appears to be an ample supply of water in the neighbourhood.

Stanwick.—The Brook at Stanwick like that at Ringstead is reported by the Sanitary Inspector to be “nothing but an open sewer.” I think this is a matter which requires attention. Cases of Anthrax in cattle were reported by the Police. The law as to slaughtering and burying were duly complied with.

Tichmarsh.—Diphtheria again appeared in that part of Tichmarsh known as Slington where it appeared last year. Prompt measures of disinfection were taken, and as there appeared to be suspicious cases of sore throat among School children, the School was closed for a short time, the premises were disinfected, and alterations were made in the spouting and drainage. A thorough inspection of the street drainage was also made and improvements, as relaying a portion, trapping and ventilation, carried out. The measures appear to have been successful as we have heard nothing further of the disease.

A case of Typhoid Fever was seen in August which attracted some attention and was made the subject of careful investigation. It appeared that a girl contracted Typhoid Fever, at Leicester, and was placed in a cab and driven to Tichmarsh, a distance of over forty miles. To say the least it was certainly an act of mistaken kindness on the part of her friends. The case rapidly proved fatal. An outbreak of mild Scarlatina was seen in December, probably imported from Kettering. I advised the closing of the Schools.

Clapton.—Almost all the houses in this Village have had their drains repaired and trapped, and the sinks cut off from connection with the Sewer.

The Sanitary Inspection of the District has been most efficiently carried out by Mr. Lloyd, to whom I am much indebted for help and information.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

C. N. ELLIOTT, M.B.,

Medical Officer of Health Thrapston Rural District.

TABLE OF DEATHS

THRAPSTON.

The subjoined numbers have also to be taken into account in judging of the above records of mortality. (See Note 5 on Back).

Deaths occurring within the district
among persons not belonging thereto

Area and Population of the District or Division
to which this Return relates.

Area in Acres, 47,437.

Population (last Census), 11,396.

„ (Estimated to middle of 1868) 11,455

Death Rates.	{	General 14.7	{	per 1000 Population, esti- mated to middle of 1898.
		Infant (under one year of age) 98.1		per 1000 Births Registered.

In recording the facts under the various headings of Tables A and B,
attention has been given to the notes endorsed on the Tables.

C. N. ELLIOTT,

Medical Officer of Health.

January 30th, 1899.

TABLE OF POPULATION, BIRTHS, AND OF NEW CASES OF INFECTIOUS SICKNESS,

(B) Coming to the knowledge of the Medical Officer of Health, during the year 1898, in the Thrapston Rural District ;
classified according to Diseases, Ages, and Localities.

NAMES OF LOCALITIES adopted for the purpose of these Statistics ; Public Institutions being shown as separate localities.	POPULATION AT ALL AGES.		Registered Births.	Aged under 5 or over 5.	NEW CASES OF SICKNESS IN EACH LOCALITY, COMING TO THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.										No. of Cases removed from their homes for treatment in Isolation Hospitals : <i>M/z</i> .		
	Last Census	Estimated to middle of 1898.			Smallpox.	Scarlatina.	Diphtheria.	Membranous Group.	FEVERS.							Cholera.	Erysipelas.
									Typhus.	Enteric or Typhoid.	Continued.	Relapsing.	Puerperal.				
THRAPSTON.																	
NORTHAMPTONSHIRE PART ...	10,457	10,514	298	Under 5 5 upwds.	11	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
HUNTINGDONSHIRE PART ..	939	927	18	Under 5 5 upwds.	30	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....
TOTALS ...	11,396	11,441	316	Under 5 5 upwds.	11	3	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	2	.....	.....	.....
					30	9	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	1	.....	.....	.....

State here whether " Notification of Infectious Disease " is compulsory in the Distrct. Yes. Since when ? 1892. State here the name of the Isolation Hospital used by the sick in the District. Mark (H) the Locality in which such Hospital is situated ; or if not within the District, state where it is situated. No Hospital.

